

How to Influence the Arizona Legislature

1. Learn the proper role of government.

You can start by studying the Constitution in the tradition of our founding Fathers.

2. Understand and learn to articulate the problem you are trying to solve.

3. Find a **solution** you believe will work.

4. Find a sponsor from among the 90 legislators.

5. Send the idea to legislative council.

6. Share your idea with like minded friends and organize a legislative action team. This tag team shares the work so no one has to do it all alone.

7. Learn the process and understand the timing.

8. When the bill language comes back from legislative council, read it, study it and share it with your action team and others.

9. Make needed changes and continue to stay in contact with your Representative.

10. Request the intro-set which is the packet containing the bill and cover sheet which sponsors will sign

11. With your action team start making appointments with as many legislators as you can to find a dozen or so co-sponsors.

12. Drop the bill in the hopper and within an hour you will have a bill number!

13. If it is a House bill have your team start contacting the Speaker of the House. If it is a Senate bill contact the Senate President.

14. Once he assigns it to a committee you work on the committee chairman, get their attention. It's all about timing. Their support is invaluable.

15. Once you persuade the chairman to put your bill on the agenda you contact all the members of the committee.

16. Organize your team so as many as possible can physically be in the committee meeting. Make sure they all sign up in the request to speak system.

17. Make sure those who can't come to the capital sign in from home. Send comments that are short and to the point.

18. After your bill passes start contacting all the members. You should contact all thirty Senators or sixty representatives.

19. Enjoy watching as your bill is discussed in Caucus then Committee of the Whole.

20. The big day arrives and you can watch from the gallery as your bill is voted on in third read. To pass the bill must receive either 16 votes in the Senate or 31 votes in the House. A 2/3 vote is needed if it contains an emergency clause (which makes it effective immediately upon governor's signature)

21. Start all over and have the same fun in the other chamber!

22. Gain an ally by contacting corporations it affects. Gain their support. Attend Stakeholders meetings.

23. Gain the media's attention and start sharing your story. Smooth over any concerns that arise

24. After the bill passes the second chamber, it is sent back to where it originated. At this point the bill may be 1. Exactly the same, amended from original form or completely different because of a strike everything. If it is the same, it doesn't need any further action, if it is different, the originating chamber must vote on amended version of the bill. If the bill is amended, the sponsor of the bill will have the opportunity to accept or reject the changes of the bill. If sponsor concurs, chamber will vote on amended version, if the changes are rejected, the bill will go to the conference committee. Once passed, each chamber must vote on final version

23. From there it reaches the Governor's desk. Then you get to call the Governor and ask him to sign the best bill in the history of Arizona!

The governor can sign the bill, veto the bill and return it to the House or Senate (Legislature can override with a 2/3 vote of each chamber) or allow the bill to become law without their signature and after 5 days it becomes law (10 if Legislature has adjourned) The Bill will take effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns unless there is an Emergency Clause. It will then become effective immediately.

*Pay it forward; share your information with others.